

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A key cover for covering a head of a key, where the head has an opening for receiving a key ring therethrough, said key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture therethrough;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture therethrough;

an outer wall extending between the first and second sidewalls to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that the opening in the head is aligned remains aligned only by the key ring passing simultaneously therethrough ~~with the first aperture and the second aperture, wherein~~ the outer wall having ends that are spaced apart from the first and second edges of the first and second sidewalls, respectively; and

a tactile feature defining a rear contact plane integrally formed on the plane of the first sidewall, said tactile feature secured to the first sidewall throughout the rear contact plane, wherein the first sidewall, the second sidewall, the outer wall, and the tactile feature are all formed of a single material selected from the group consisting of: a metal and a thermoplastic.

2. (Original) The key cover of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a geometric shape on the first sidewall.

3. (Original) The key cover of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a triangle, a square, a parallelogram, a star, a cross, a house icon, an animal icon, a vehicle icon, and a human icon.

4. (Currently Amended) The key cover of claim 2 wherein the geometric shape is raised above the plane of the first sidewall.

5. (Currently Amended) A key cover for covering a head of a key, where the head has an opening for receiving a key ring therethrough, said key cover comprising:

a first sidewall defining a plane and terminating in a first edge, the first sidewall having a first aperture therethrough;

a second sidewall terminating in a second edge, the second sidewall having a second aperture therethrough;

an outer wall extending between the first and second sidewalls to define a recess that receives the head of the key therein so that the opening in the head is aligned remains aligned only by the key ring passing simultaneously therethrough wherein the outer wall having ends that are spaced apart from the first and second edges of the first and second sidewalls, respectively;

a tactile feature defining a rear contact plane integrally formed on the plane of the first sidewall, said tactile feature secured to the first sidewall throughout the rear contact plane, wherein the first sidewall, the second sidewall, the outer wall, and the tactile feature are all formed of a single material selected from the group consisting of: a metal and a thermoplastic;

wherein the geometric shape is raised above the plane of the first sidewall; and

~~the key cover~~ of further comprising a geometric shape depressed ~~relative to~~ beneath the plane of the first sidewall.

6. (Previously Presented) The key cover of claim 1 wherein the tactile feature is a raised treatment along the first edge protruding outwardly from the plane of the first sidewall.

7. (Previously Presented) The key cover of claim 6 wherein the edge treatment is selected from the group consisting of: a repeating row of three-dimensional geometric shapes, a barbell, and a braid.

8. (Previously Presented) The key cover of claim 1 further comprising a second tactile feature integral with a portion of said key cover selected from the group consisting of: the second sidewall and the second edge.

9. (Previously Presented) The key cover of claim 8 wherein the tactile feature and the second tactile feature are identical and in opposition.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) A key ring comprising:
a first key having a first opening therethrough, said first key encompassed by a key cover according to claim 1;

a second key having a second opening therethrough, said second key encompassed by a second key cover according to claim 1 wherein the second key cover has a different tactile feature relative to said first key cover; and

a securement simultaneously engaging the first key opening, the first key cover, the second key opening and the second key cover.

12. (Previously Presented) A key cover of claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

casting molten metal into a mold having a void complementary to said key cover of claim 1;

allowing said molten metal sufficient time to solidify into a key cover casting; and
polishing said casting.

13. (Original) A key cover of claim 12 wherein the molten metal is selected from the group consisting of a pure or alloyed form of: aluminum, iron, brass, silver, tin, and zinc.

14. (Original) The key cover of claim 12 produced by a process further comprising the step of: having a textural surface treatment to said key cover.

15. (Original) The key cover of claim 14 wherein the textural treatment is selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.

16. (Previously Presented) A key cover of claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the steps of:

injection molding thermoplastic into a mold having a void complementary to said key cover of claim 1;

allowing said thermoplastic sufficient time to solidify into a key cover casting; and
polishing said casting.

17. (Previously Presented) A key cover of claim 16 wherein the thermoplastic is selected from the group consisting of olefins; polyurethanes; polyesters; polyolefins; aliphatic polyamide; polycarbonate; polyacrylonitrile; polycarbonate; polyvinyl chloride; and polystyrene.

18. (Original) The key cover of claim 16 produced by a process further comprising the step of: having a textural surface treatment to said key cover.

19. (Previously Presented) The key cover of claim 18 wherein the textural treatment is selected from the group consisting of: paint, resin, enamel and an inlay.

20-24 (Canceled)